Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for computer-controlled monitoring of a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects, said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one rule stored in a control computer, each of the at least one rule relating ~~storing rules which relate~~ to at least one status of at least one of the plurality of physical objects;

evaluating the plurality of physical objects based on the at least one rule to select a sample of the plurality of physical objects;

marking ~~selecting a~~ the sample of ~~from~~ the plurality of physical objects ~~by using the rules, wherein physical objects of the sample are marked~~ in such a way that the sample ~~they~~ can be subjected to a measurement; and

determining whether to perform further measurements on the sample based on ~~forming rules on the basis of~~ the criterion of reducing ~~that~~ the number of measurements ~~is reduced~~ and avoiding redundant measurements ~~are avoided~~.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the physical object is a wafer.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 2, wherein one of the at least one rule ~~plurality of stored rules~~ relates to a Statistical Process Control ("SPC") ~~an SPC~~ sampling status of the plurality of physical objects.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein one of the at least one rule ~~plurality of stored rules~~ relates to an inquiry of a specific status of the plurality of physical objects.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~as claimed in one of claims 2 to 4~~, wherein one of the at least one rule ~~plurality of stored rules~~ relates to an inquiry of an

explicit status of the plurality of physical objects at a process step.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~as claimed in one of claims 2 to 5~~, wherein one of the at least one rule ~~plurality of stored rules~~ relates to an inquiry of a sampling status of the plurality of physical objects.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~as claimed in one of claims 2 to 6~~, wherein one of the at least one rule ~~plurality of stored rules~~ relates to an inquiry of a special monitoring status of the plurality of physical objects.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, wherein~~

combining each of the at least one rule into a single rule ~~the various stored rules are combined with one another~~.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, wherein~~

measuring the marked sample of the plurality of ~~the marked~~ physical objects ~~are subjected to a measurement~~.

10.   (Currently Amended) A device for computer-controlled monitoring of a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects with a processor which is set up in such a way that the following method steps can be carried out:

providing at least one rule relating ~~storing plurality of rules, wherein the of rules relates~~ to at least one status of at least one of the plurality of physical objects;

evaluating the plurality of physical objects based on the at least one rule to select a sample of the plurality of objects; ~~and~~

marking ~~selecting a~~ the sample of ~~from~~ the plurality of physical objects ~~by using the at least one rule, with the sample being marked~~ in such a way that the sample [[it]] can be subjected to a measurement, ~~the plurality of rules being formed on the basis of~~

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~~the criterion that the number of measurements is reduced and redundant~~ ~~measurements are avoided~~; and

determining whether to perform further measurements on the sample based on a criterion of reducing the number of measurements and avoiding redundant measurements.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium, in which a program for monitoring of a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects is stored, the ~~which~~ program executes the following method steps when it is run by a processor:

providing at least one rule relating ~~storing plurality of rules, wherein the plurality~~ ~~of rules relates~~ to at least one status of at least one of the plurality of physical objects;

evaluating the plurality of physical objects based on the at least one rule to select a sample of the plurality of objects; ~~and~~

marking ~~selecting a~~ the sample of ~~from~~ the plurality of physical objects ~~by using~~ ~~the at least one rule, with the sample being marked~~ in such a way that the sample [[it]] can be subjected to a measurement, ~~the plurality of rules being formed on the basis of~~ ~~the criterion that the number of measurements is reduced and redundant~~ ~~measurements are avoided~~; and

determining whether to perform further measurements on the sample based on a criterion of reducing the number of measurements and avoiding redundant measurements.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer program element for monitoring of a manufacturing process of a plurality of physical objects which executes the following method steps when it is run by a processor:

providing at least one rule relating ~~storing a plurality of rules, wherein the plurality~~ ~~of rules relating~~ to at least one status of at least one of the plurality of physical objects;

evaluating the plurality of physical objects based on the at least one rule to select a sample of the plurality of objects; ~~and~~

marking ~~selecting a~~ the sample of ~~from~~ the plurality of physical objects ~~by using~~ ~~the at least one rule, with the sample being marked~~ in such a way that the sample [[it]]

can be subjected to a measurement, ~~the plurality of rules being formed on the basis of~~ ~~the criterion that the number of measurements is reduced and redundant~~ ~~measurements are avoided~~; and

determining whether to perform further measurements on the sample based on a criterion of reducing the number of measurements and avoiding redundant measurements.